

REMARKS

**Status of Claims:**

Claims 1-31 are present for examination.

**Prior Art Rejection:**

Claims 1-31 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Goldberg (5625747).

The examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

In accordance with applicants' embodiments, it is required to execute the frequency coefficient calculation for calculation of the optimum path for the feature vector and the reference pattern.

The present invention differentiates from Goldberg in the development of the optimum path. While the present invention needs the calculation with only two dimensions, Goldberg needs three dimensions.

More specifically, reference is made to the retrieval with the probability value  $yt(j, k)$  in the present invention and the retrieval for the space of frequency axis  $yt(j, k, \alpha)$ . Here  $j$  and  $k$  represent number of reference pattern states and number of utterance frames  $\alpha$  represents order number of feature vector in the cited reference and frequency elongation or contraction coefficients in the present invention.

In the present invention, expansion compression coefficient  $\alpha$  can be obtained by retrieval in the two dimension space  $(j, k)$ , that is, one value can be obtained by one retrieval. On the contrary, in Goldberg as stated from line 52 of column 5 to line 7 of column 6, the retrieval is performed by successively obtaining the optimum  $\alpha$  in the retrieval path by  $j, k$ . Therefore, it requires a greater amount of calculation than that of the present invention.

As to accuracy, the accuracy is changed according to setting the accuracy of  $\alpha$ , resulting in a change of calculation amounts. In Goldberg, since  $\alpha$  is obtained after the retrieval in  $i, j$  space, a high accuracy may be maintained.

As to function, the present invention obtains one frequency elongation or contraction compression coefficient  $\alpha$  for each utterance. In the cited reference, the optimum  $\alpha$  is obtained during the development of the optimum path.

Applicant has amended all of the independent claims to recited (for, example as to claim 1):

wherein said elongation/contraction parameter is based on an expansion-compression coefficient obtained by retrieval in two dimensional space such that one value of the coefficient is obtained for each utterance.

This limitation and similar limitations in the remaining independent claims are, as pointed out above, not disclosed in Goldberg.

As such, it is submitted that the Goldberg reference does not teach applicants and thus the rejection under 35 USC 102 should be withdrawn.

**Conclusion:**

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1-305

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